

STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

1100 Patricia Blvd. | Prince George, BC, Canada V2L 3V9 | www.princegeorge.ca

DATE: November 21, 2023

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Andy Beesley, Director, Civic Facilities & Events

SUBJECT: Interior Universities Research Coalition (IURC) Request for Letter of Support

ATTACHMENT(S): E-mail from Dr. Greg Halseth - UNBC

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council **APPROVES** Administration providing a letter of support for the Interior Universities Research Coalition's grant application to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), as described in the report dated November 21, 2023, from the Director of Civic Facilities & Events, titled "IURC Request for Letter of Support".

PURPOSE:

The City has been working with the Interior Universities Research Coalition (IURC) and the cities of Kamloops and Kelowna to conduct targeted research to meet current and future needs in relation to homelessness. The IURC is comprised of Thompson Rivers University, UBC-Okanagan, and UNBC, and has facilitated several streams of applied research that have addressed complex issues. One of the partners (Dr. John Graham from UBC-Okanagan) is leading a funding application to the national Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The funding application will involve a national team of diverse researchers and scholars and will focus on preventing homelessness through community-embedded research with a positive social impact geared toward medium-sized cities. Administration has reviewed the intent and goals of the project and is seeking Council's approval to prepare a letter of support. The proposed project builds from the current IURC Homelessness Initiative that involves the cities of Prince George, Kamloops, and Kelowna.

BACKGROUND:

The attached email from Dr. Greg Halseth, UNBC was addressed to city administration. It includes attachments that describe the intent and goals of the proposed seven-year SSHRC Partnership Grant and set out a proposed template to guide the development of the support letter.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

There are no direct costs to the City of Prince George related to this project.

SUMMARY:

Should Council approve the recommendation, Administration will prepare a letter of support for the Interior Universities Research Coalition's grant application to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Andy Beesley, Director, Civic Facilities & Events

PREPARED BY: Sarah Brown, Supervisor Civic Initiatives & Partnerships

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2023/12/04